

# NEWS



# LETTER

A Research Center for Turf and Field Sports,  
their History and Social Significance

Middleburg, Virginia 22117

June, 1980

Belle Cohen, Editor  
Judith Ozment, Assistant

No. 10

## EARLY HOUND RACES

*Alexander Mackay-Smith*

One of the most entertaining features of the Rappahannock Hunt (Virginia) Point-to-Point Meeting each March after the horse races, is a hound race for a money prize following a drag so laid that virtually all of it is visible to the spectators. Other race meetings have similar races. For these there is much precedent.

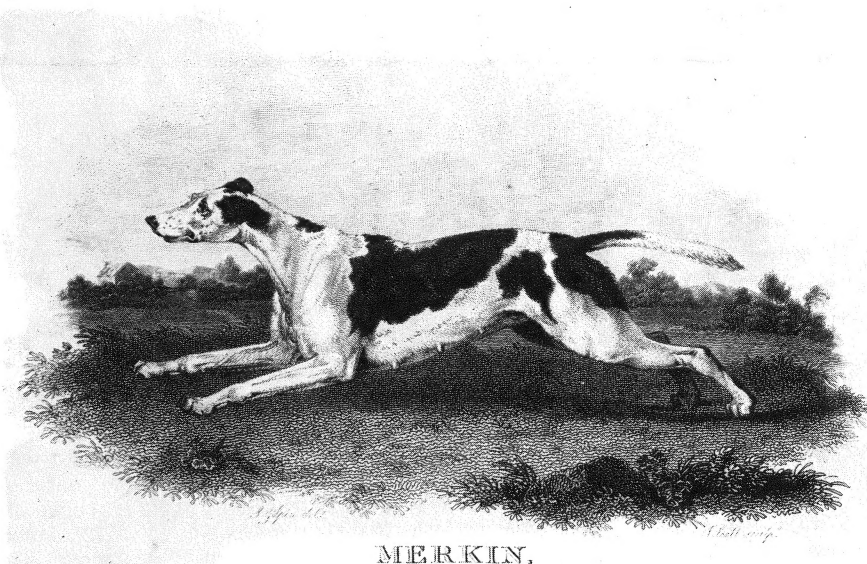
It was Charles II, King of England after re-assuming the throne in 1660, who established horse racing in the modern manner at Newmarket, still one of the world's great racing centers. Local meetings followed including Woodstock Park, about 8 miles northwest of Oxford, whose programs were printed in the *London Gazette*. For example the issue of April 14, 1681 announced the "Woodstock Plate being about 40 pound price will be Run for on Wednesday the 4th of May next, every horse carrying Ten Stone (140 lbs), three Heats; and on the Friday following another Plate, about 30 pound price, will be Run for there by Horses carrying fifteen Stone (210 lbs.), one Heat only." Considering the fact that the horses of that era averaged 14 hands this was quite an impost! The notice continues: "There will be also a Plate given for Hounds running a Trail-scent (drag) of four Miles, for which any Gentleman may put in a hound." The issue of April 10, 1682 announced a "Trail Scent for Hounds" and that of Aug. 21, 1684 "two Plates run for hounds the Four Miles Course, the one of 10 pound, the of 5 pound price, while that of Aug. 19, 1686 said simply: "There will be a Dog-Plate Run for each day."

The hounds of the 1680's were either stag hounds or harriers, since foxhunting with running hounds was then only just beginning. A century later, when Hugo Meynell, second Master (1753-1800) of the Quorn, was establishing Leicestershire as the most fashionable of all hunting countries, the speed of foxhounds became the subject of more matches. The Hon. J.H. Smith-Barry, founder and Master (1763-1784) of the Cheshire Hunt, provided

the opposition. In his "Correct Delineation of the Horse and Dog" (London, 1820) John Scott wrote: - Mrs. Meynell matched two Fox Hounds, Richmond and a Bitch (his daughter Rarity) against Mr. Barry's two hounds, Bluecap and Wanton, to run over the Beacon Course at Newmarket, for five hundred guineas. Mr. Barry's hounds were trained on Tiptree Heath, Essex, where annual Races for small prizes have been held immemorially. The trainer was Will Crane, long-famed in that Quarter as a Huntsman, and who kept Rivenhall Inn. His method with the hounds was to run a fox drag of eight or ten miles, three times a week, upon the turf, during two months, feeding upon oat-meal and milk and sheep's-trotters. Mr. Meynell's hounds were fed whilst in training entirely upon legs of mutton, and were also in high condition: odds seven to four upon them at starting, chiefly from the Proprietor's high sporting character. The match was run on the 30th of September 1773 by laying the accustomed drag from the Rubbing

House at Newmarket Town end, to the Rubbing House at the Starting Post of the Beacon Course, the four hounds being immediately laid on the scent. Mr. Barry's Bluecap came in first and his Wanton a very near second, the four miles being run by these hounds in a few seconds above eight minutes, much about the time in which an ordinary Country plate horse would run the same distance, carrying the weight of eight stone or eight stone seven pounds. Mr. Meynell's hound was beaten by about one hundred and twenty yards, and the bitch was in no place, not running her course through. Three score Horsemen started with the hounds; and Cooper, Mr. Barry's Huntsman, was first at the Ending Post. Only twelve horses out of the sixty, were able to run in with the hounds, Will Crane, mounted upon the winner of a twelve stone or King's Plate called Rib, being the twelfth."

That theatrical sportsman Col. Thomas Thornton of Thornville Royal in Yorkshire,  
Continued on Page 2



Merkin, FL. (1795), Sawrey Gilpin.

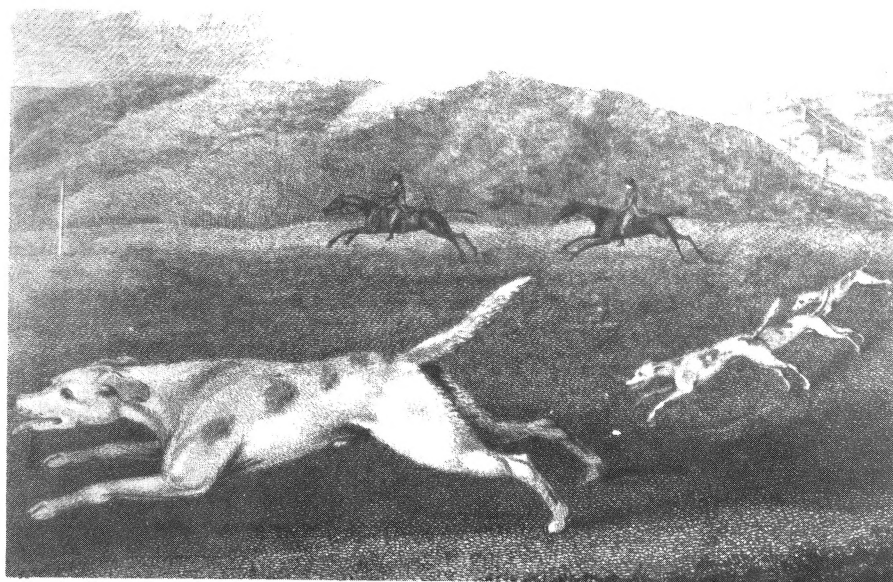
Continued from Page 1

on March 19, 1783, matched 12½ couple of his hounds against a like number from the Confederate pack of the Earl of Effington. Although the latter failed to appear, the Colonel's hounds found at 9:27 A.M. and ran the same fox until 5:14 that afternoon!

Col. Thornton next decided to beat Bluecap's record. In his "Rural Sports" (London, 1801) Rev. W.B. Daniel writes: "Madcap at two years old challenged all England for 500 guineas. Lounger, brother to Madcap, did the same at four years old; the challenge was accepted, and a Bet made for 200 guineas, to run Mr. Meynell's Pillager; the parties were also allowed by Col. Thornton to start any other hound of Mr. M.'s and Lounger was to beat both; but upon Lounger's being seen at Tattersall's by many of the first Sportmen, his Bone and Form were so capital that it was thought proper to pay forfeit, which was done by giving Col. T. a pair of Gold Couples.

"The speed of Merkin, a Foxhound Bitch bred by Colonel Thornton was still superior; she was challenged to run any Hound of her five miles over Newmarket, giving 220 yards, for 10,000 guineas or to give Madcap 100 yards, and run the same distance for 5000. Merkin had run a trial for Four miles, and the time she performed it in seven minutes and half a second. This Bitch was sold in 1795 for four Hogsheads of Claret, and the seller to have two couple of her Whelps."

First published in *The Chronicle of the Horse* July, 1973.



Hon. J. Smith Barry's Bluecap, by John Nost Sartorius, published in the *Sporting Magazine*, May, 1801.

## GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

The Library is pleased to announce the following gifts received this past year:

From Mrs. Thomas Atkinson a copy of "A Plea for Sanity in Thoroughbred Racing";

Mr. William Brainard, additions to his ongoing gifts of the *American Kennel Club Gazette*;

Mr. Bud Brown, two volumes of "Who's Who in Thoroughbred Racing";

Donald Eismann - "Chichester Foxhunt-

ing Club - Early History";

Mr. Francis Greene, "The Piping Rock Racing Association - 1914";

Mrs. Polly Howard, a collection of old sporting magazines including *The Sportsman* and *Country Life*;

Mr. Alfred M. Hunt and The Hunt Foundation, a generous grant of funds;

Mr. Alexander Mackay-Smith, 150 early books on British Thoroughbred racing, facsimile editions of 17th and 18th century books on equitation, Muybridge's "The Horse in Motion" (1882) and books on 20th century American racing;

Mr. Thomas Marston, leather-bound scrapbooks containing early newspaper articles and clippings, letters, photographs and original material on "Grafton-Middlesex Match, Nov. 1905," "Mr. Chetland's Racehorses 1910-," and "The Middlesex Hounds, 1899-1920";

Mr. Harry T. Peters, Jr., a collection of photographs;

Mrs. Judy Richter, her latest book, "Horse & Rider, From Basics to Show Competition";

Mr. James Scharnberg, hunt buttons of Ireland, Scotland and the United States, handsomely mounted and framed;

Mr. John Barnes Todd, a two-volume set of "Dogs, Their History and Development," by Edward C. Ash;

Mr. William R. Tupper, a four-volume edition of "Portraits of Celebrated Racehorses," by Thomas Henry Taunton, London, 1887.

Mrs. Thomas Waller, 13 books on various aspects of horse breeding, racing and riding dating back to 1902, and some 50 issues of *The Sportsman*.

The Dwight W. Winkelman Foundation, a generous grant of funds.

Our deep appreciation to our Friends who have contributed so generously, enlarging the scope and enriching the quality of the Library's collections.



This print of Jacob Bates was made from a drawing by P. Nusbiegel and was published in Nurnberg, Germany, in 1766. He was reputed to have been the originator of the modern circus. Certainly his feats on horse were extraordinary. He travelled all over Europe and even to the American colonies. On September 19, 1772, Jacob Hiltzheimer of Philadelphia wrote "With my wife and children went to see Jacob Bates perform in my lot, up Market Street, different feats of horsemanship on one, two, and three horses".

# FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY

The Library extends a warm welcome to the 20 new members who joined us since this time last year, and deep appreciation to those nine "Old Friends" who have increased their contributions to a higher category of membership, which we are pleased to accept as an indication of confidence as well as support.

In this regard, we wish to invite our Friends to keep in touch. Write, call, and do visit! Let us know what you are thinking. Send us your suggestions.

## FRIENDS OF THE N.S.L. LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Arthur W. Arundel  
Mr. Gordon Barton  
Mrs. Lida Fleitmann Bloodgood  
Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Herbert Bryant  
Miss Penelope Chapin  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen C. Clarke, Jr.  
Brigadier General & Mrs. J.L. Collins  
Mr. Daniel T. Cox  
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Daniels  
Mr. Edward Durell  
Mrs. Eleanor Langley Fletcher  
Mr. Arthur Godfrey  
Mr. Cary T. Grayson  
Mr. Gordon Grayson  
Mr. William C. Grayson ★  
Mr. Francis Thornton Greene  
Mr. Henry W. Hooker, M.F.H.  
The Hunt Foundation  
Mr. Alfred M. Hunt, ex-M.F.H.  
Mr. Walter M. Jeffords, Jr., M.F.H.  
Mrs. Walter M. Jeffords, Jr.  
Professor Henry W. Lewis  
Mrs. Howard Linn  
Mr. Alexander Mackay-Smith  
Mrs. John J. McDonald  
Mr. Forrest E. Mars  
Mr. Thomas Marston  
Mr. Paul Mellon  
Mr. George L. Ohrstrom, Jr.  
Mr. Ricard Ohrstrom  
Mr. Robert Patterson  
Mr. Harry T. Peters, Jr.  
Mr. C.G. Rice  
Mrs. J.T. Sadler, Jr.  
Mrs. Marion DuPont Scott  
Mrs. W. Mason Shehan  
Mrs. Esther L. Voorhees  
Mr. Robert York White  
Mr. Orme Wilson, Jr.  
Mrs. S. Bryce Wing  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight W. Winkelman

## SPONSOR MEMBERS

Mrs. E.T. Babcock  
Mrs. Hugh Fenwick  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond C. Firestone  
Mrs. Helen K. Groves  
Mr. Ben H. Hardaway, III, M.F.H.  
Mr. Gerald L. Hempt  
Mrs. Milton W. McCoy  
Mrs. Eleanor V. Mann  
Mr. Milton Ritzenberg  
Mr. Howard C. Rogers, II  
Mr. James F. Scharnberg  
Mr. Robert M. Seastrom

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Sogg  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce G. Sundlun  
Mr. John Barnes Todd  
Mr. William R. Tupper  
Mrs. Thomas M. Waller  
Senator & Mrs. John W. Warner

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

American Connemara Pony Society  
Mrs. Barbara Barty-King  
Mr. David T. Beals, III  
Miss Virginia Boy-Ed  
Mr. William W. Brainard, Jr.  
Mr. P.T. Cheff  
Mrs. Thomas Furness  
Dr. John W. Garden  
Mr. John G. Hagan  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Harris  
Mr. G.A. Horkan, Jr.  
Mr. Edward Howrey  
Mrs. Gilbert W. Humphrey  
Mr. Lawrence Illoway  
Mr. Gwynne Harrison Jones  
Mr. George A. Masek  
Mr. Richmond F. Meyer, M.F.H.  
Mr. Lewis C. Murdock  
National Museum of Racing, Inc.  
Dr. Richard L. Pearse  
Dr. Bruce P'Pool, Jr.  
Mr. Harry Moore Rhett, Jr., M.F.H.  
Mrs. Edward A. Robertson  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas B. Salmon  
Mrs. Hardie Scott  
Mrs. A.J. Slagter, III  
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Smith  
Mrs. Bette J. Smock  
Mrs. LeRoy Thompson  
Mr. H. Stewart Treviranus  
Mr. Thaddeus R. Trout  
Mr. William P. Wadsworth, ex-M.F.H.  
Mrs. William P. Wadsworth  
Mr. Lowry Watkins, ex-M.F.H.  
Judge J.A.F. Wendt, Jr., M.F.H.  
Judge Leo Winery

## MEMBERS

Mrs. Charles C. Abeles  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth M. Adams  
Mrs. James B. Allen  
Mr. James R. Allen  
Mrs. W. Perry Arnold  
Capt. W. Ashby, ex-M.F.H.  
Dr. Anne Preston Askew  
Mrs. Thomas Atkinson  
Mrs. Jack M. Averett, Jr.  
Ms. Ann B.C. Barclay  
Mrs. Beth W. Barr  
Mrs. Jane F. Bassett  
Dr. H.P. Belknap  
Mr. E. Albert Berol  
Dr. Jack W. Berryman  
Mrs. Alfred Bissell  
Ms. Robin Bledsoe  
Mr. & Mrs. John Bowles  
Mr. C.B. Boyer, III  
Lieutenant Colonel J.W. Bradbury  
Mrs. William McK. Bray  
Mr. & Mrs. B. Brown  
Mr. J. Mayo Brown  
Dean E. Burget, Jr., MD  
Mrs. Constance Kinne Bush  
Mr. B.B. Byrd

Dr. Elizabeth R. Carmichael  
Mr. Dorr B. Carpenter  
Mrs. Compton Carrington  
Mrs. Lyn Carroll  
Mr. & Mrs. G. M. Carter  
Mr. Edgar T. Cato  
Mrs. James C. Cawood, Jr.  
Mrs. Hubert W. Chanler  
Mrs. Thomas F. Coates, Jr., M.F.H.  
Mr. Philip G. Cochran  
Dr. Burton H. Cohen  
Mrs. Leo Cohen  
Mr. Lawrence Strong Comegys  
Mrs. Charles Cooke  
Mrs. Robert H. Coon, Jr.  
Mrs. Harden L. Crawford, III  
Miss Helen Cunningham  
Mrs. C. Suydam Cutting  
Ms. Susan Davidge  
Mr. Peter Barry Devers  
Mrs. David K. Diebold  
Mr. Clayton E. Doing, M.F.H.  
Mrs. Lynne Dole  
Mr. Kenneth J. Edwards, ex-M.F.H.  
Mr. Donald F. Eismann  
Colonel & Mrs. Howard C. Fair  
Mrs. Gloria Galban Fennell  
Mr. & Mrs. Jud Fischel  
Mr. Dudley Clark Fort  
Mr. Jack H. Foster  
Mrs. Paul Fout  
Mrs. Regina K. Fox  
Mr. John H. Fritz  
Mrs. J.S. Galban  
Mrs. Kenneth N. Gilpin, Sr.  
Mrs. Lyttleton B.P. Gould, Jr.  
Mr. Arnold S. Greenspan  
Dr. Eugen Guazzo, ex-M.F.H.  
Mrs. Sherman P. Haight, Jr.  
Dr. Gove Hambridge, Jr.  
Mr. Frank Hampton  
Mr. H.R.E. Hampton  
Mr. C.M. Harris  
Mr. Freddie Steve Harris  
Mrs. C. Warren Harrover  
Mr. William B. Hart  
Mrs. William Hopper  
Colonel & Mrs. John L. Hornor, Jr.  
Mrs. Murray Horowitz  
Mrs. Edward Houghton  
Mr. George E. Humphries  
Mrs. Phelps S. Hunter  
Mr. Ronald Davis Jeancon  
Mr. Edward Johnson  
Mr. Martin Stuart Kahn  
Ms. Joan Kinney  
Mr. Melvin Lee Kitzmiller  
Mrs. Sterling Larrabee  
Mrs. Rodney M. Layton  
Mr. John C. LeGates  
Mrs. Edwin S. Lewis  
Mr. Alexander Mackay-Smith, Jr.  
Mrs. Nelson C. McClary  
Mr. J. Reiman McIntosh  
Mrs. Charles McMurray  
Mr. Charles T. Matheson  
Mr. & Mrs. A. Jack Maultsby  
Mrs. L.A. Meierkord  
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Melson  
Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Merck  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph O. Miller



Continued from page 3

Mrs. William S. Moorhead  
Miss Ellenor Morris  
Mr. Robert Mulvey  
Mr. William Paul Murray, Jr.  
Mr. Joseph T. Murtaugh  
Mrs. Preston R. Nash, Jr.  
Ms. Marilyn Newmark  
Mr. Harry I. Nicholas, Jr., ex-M.F.H.  
Mr. Allan Neibuhr  
Major General Frank W. Norris  
Mrs. Edward Oppenheimer  
Mrs. Donald Opstad  
Mr. James B. Orthwein, M.F.H.  
Mrs. Edith Overly  
Mr. Meade Palmer  
Miss Clara S. Peck  
Mr. Charles J. Pike  
Mr. John Podeschi  
Miss Susan T. Powers  
Mrs. Mirian G. Raab  
Mr. S.W. Rawls, Jr.  
Governor Ronald Wilson Reagan  
Mr. Randolph W. Reed, Jr.  
Mrs. Judy Richter  
Mr. Richard Riemenschneider  
Mrs. Richard Reimenschneider, ex-M.F.H.  
Ms. India Riggs  
Mrs. Norborne Robinson, III  
Mr. & Mrs. John S. Rodes  
Dr. Joseph M. Rogers, M.F.H.  
Mrs. Edmund B. Ross  
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Ruppert  
Mrs. Paul A. Scott  
Mrs. David B. Sharp  
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Sharp  
A. Martin Simensen, D.V.M.  
Miss Margaret E. Skinner  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Sinclair Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Smith, Sr.  
Mr. Francis McIlhenny Stifler  
Mrs. Elizabeth P. Streeter  
Dr. Joseph Stuart  
Mr. C. Reed Thomas  
Mr. Phillip S. Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Duane C. Traver

Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Trollope  
Mrs. Maximilian A. Tufts  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. Turner  
Mr. Stitler A. Vipond  
Mr. & Mrs. Lyman Wakefield  
Miss Katherine W. Walker  
Mr. Randy M. Waterman  
Mrs. Charles F. Weeden, III  
Miss Ellen B. Wells  
Colonel W.W. West, III  
Mrs. Nancy Weyle  
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Whitfield  
Mr. John H. Whitworth  
Mr. Carl A. Wilson, II  
Mrs. Carolyn R. Wilson  
Mr. Henry H. Wilton  
Mr. William P. Winkelman  
Mr. Robert B. Young ★

★ Deceased

## OUR LATE FRIENDS

We sadly note the passing of good  
Friends - Mrs. Donald Opstad in April,

1979, and Mr. Robert B. (Bobby) Young  
and Mr. William Grayson in April 1980.

## DUPLICATE BOOKS FOR SALE

We have compiled a list of books of which we have several copies, and are offering for sale to the Friends. This list may be obtained by writing to N.S.L. Among the items is *The Sportsman Magazine* running from Vol. I, No. 2, February, 1927 to Vol. XXII, No. 4, October, 1937. We do not have Volume I, No. 1, January, 1927 and would like to obtain this issue to complete our set. Please pass on to us any clues to its availability.

The sale of duplicate materials from our holdings provides the Library funds with which to purchase other items that would round out our specialized collections.

Please enroll me as a member of  
**THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY, INC.**  
in the class checked below.

My check for \_\_\_\_\_ dollars is enclosed

- ☐ Life Member ..... \$500.00  
☐ Sponsor ..... \$100.00  
☐ Sustaining Member ..... \$ 35.00  
☐ Member ..... \$ 10.00

Miss

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Donations of books as well as cash are acceptable for membership.*

*All gifts, both books and cash, are tax deductible.*

**Make checks payable to: National Sporting Library, Middleburg, Va. 22117**

The manuscript of the poem which follows was recently received from Betty Babcock, long-time Secretary of the Meadow Brook Hunt, Long Island, the privately printed facsimile editions of whose hunt diaries, illustrated by the author, are among the most sought-after items in American foxhunting literature.

### A Hunting Memory

1957

It's a very old house with creaky stairs  
And the hot water runs at a trickle  
And the beds are hard and the ceiling's  
cracked  
And nobody cares that it is like that,  
No more than you'd care that a grand old  
man  
Was wrinkled and fat and short of breath.  
Behind and below it the stables are  
sprawled,  
Some yellow, some green, some white, in a  
pigglety fashion.  
And rising above them the kennels stand, a  
drab dark green  
And the kennelman's house is most  
dangerously propped  
On the red clay banks of a deep washout.

The whole layout speaks of neglect and  
decay,  
But there's something comforting  
nevertheless  
To see Nature's peace and man's unrest  
Welded together.  
It's down at the heels now, house, kennels  
and stables  
And even the hounds have that raggedy  
look,  
Which poverty stamps on its own,  
But I knew this place when the paint was  
new  
The house well filled and the stables too  
And the yard was cluttered with cars and  
vans  
And the lawn was raked and the stoop was  
brushed  
And not until dawn was the revelry hushed  
So gay was the company then.  
The Master was a dour faced man  
Who rarely spoke or smiled  
Till he found his hounds around him and  
then  
His eyes would light and his voice would  
cheer  
Hounds, horses and the valley.

Hard to follow, he rode so straight  
He stayed with hounds whatever the rate  
Of pace they set, and could lift and cast  
them  
With the sure instinct of a great huntsman.  
He was not rich, this sad faced Master,  
But the sport he gave with his fine pack  
Swelled the field and there was no lack  
Of support in those good days.  
He is gone, some years now, replaced by  
one  
Turned out to perfection, protecting his  
person  
By riding the easy line.  
Knowing no hound by name, mounting his  
staff  
On old creaks or half mad young brutes,  
But ever ready with the finest of salutes  
For the pretty girls.  
For the memory of happy days a few of us  
return  
Each year for a short while,  
Seeing, when hounds are in full cry, that  
lovely smile  
Of one we loved and who brought honor to  
the name  
Of Master.